



Memorandum

TO: Krista Power, City Clerk **FILE:**

FROM: Cynthia Olsen, Director – Strategy & Engagement
City Manager’s Office, Strategic Initiatives & Engagement

DATE: 07/05/2024

SUBJECT: Response to Unsheltered Homelessness: Designated Encampment Framework

MEETING & DATE: City Council - 07/15/2024

The purpose of this memo is to provide amended Distance Guidelines for the City of Thunder Bay’s Designated Encampment Framework, and to recommend their adoption.

At the June 24, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting a set of distance guidelines were presented and recommended for adoption. While they were approved at Committee of the Whole, it was evident that there were some concerns with the proposed distances, and some locations that Council wished to see included. As such, Administration has re-examined the previously proposed guidelines. In upholding Council’s commitment to a human rights-based approach, Administration has consulted with a small number of individuals with living experience in encampments for their input, and propose the following updates:

- Including 20 metres away from private non-residential property
- Including 5 metres away from railways and from rivers

Attachment A provides the full updated Distance Guidelines with the above amendments included.

Administration is recommending the following amendment to the recommendation as contained in Report 252-2024 (City Manager’s Office, Strategic Initiatives & Engagement).

THAT paragraph 1 be deleted and replaced with the following:

WITH RESPECT to Report 252-2024 (City Manager's Office, Strategic Initiatives & Engagement) and the Memorandum from C. Olsen, Director – Strategy & Engagement, dated July 5, 2024, relative to Response to Unsheltered Homelessness: Designated Encampment Framework, we recommend that the updated distance guidelines as attached to this memo, and subject to ongoing review, be adopted within the City of Thunder Bay;

If approved, the final recommendation will be as follows:

WITH RESPECT to Report 252-2024 (City Manager's Office, Strategic Initiatives & Engagement) and the Memorandum from C. Olsen, Director – Strategy & Engagement, dated July 5, 2024, relative to Response to Unsheltered Homelessness: Designated Encampment Framework, we recommend that the updated distance guidelines as attached to this memo, and subject to ongoing review, be adopted within the City of Thunder Bay;

AND THAT a letter from the Mayor, on behalf of City Council, be sent to potential funders in support of a built structure pilot project;

AND THAT City Council advocate to the Government of Ontario for the following:

- to fulfill the cost-matching requirement to secure 2024 federal budget funding to address the urgent issue of encampments and unsheltered homelessness;
- to improve the adequacy of social assistance by increasing social assistance rates so that recipients are better able to meet their basic needs, including the cost of living and housing;
- to fund low-barrier crisis stabilization spaces for people with mental health and/or substance use related issues that operate 24 hours per day, seven days per week across the city as part of a full continuum of evidence-based services, treatment and wrap around supports;

AND THAT City Council urge the Government of Canada to establish a National Encampment Response Plan as recommended in the Federal Housing Advocate's February 2024 final report;

AND THAT the City Manager and City Clerk be authorized to execute any necessary documents;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community, and Social

Services. Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and all Ontario municipalities;

AND THAT Outstanding List Item 2024-006-ADM Response to Unsheltered Homelessness – a Protocol for the City of Thunder Bay, be removed from the Outstanding List;

AND THAT any necessary by-laws be presented to City Council for ratification.

Cc:

John Collin, City Manager

Rilee Willianen, Policy & Research Analyst